

CLAIMS

5 1. A moulded plastics tubular coupling having a  
cylindrical surface to engage with a corresponding  
surface of another component, the surface having an  
annular recess therein and a flexible annular  
diaphragm formed in the recess integrally with the  
coupling and having an outer periphery extending proud  
of the cylindrical surface to engage and grip the  
10 corresponding surface of another component.

15 2. A tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein the annular recess in the cylindrical surface  
of the coupling is V-shaped and the flexible diaphragm  
is formed at the apex of the V to be able to flex  
towards either side of the V when the coupling is  
engaged with another component.

20 3. A coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein  
the recess and diaphragm are formed on the outer  
cylindrical surface of the coupling to engage an inner  
surface of a component to encircle the coupling.

25 4. A coupling as claimed in claim 3, wherein  
the coupling is intended to receive an end of a length  
of tubing, wherein the coupling has a sleeve portion  
having said recess and diaphragm formed around the  
outer surface of the sleeve portion partway along the  
sleeve; a tapered portion at one end of the sleeve to  
30 facilitate insertion of the sleeve into an end of a  
length of tubing and an end stop at the other end of  
the sleeve to limit the insertion of the sleeve into  
the tube.

35 5. A coupling as claimed in claim 4, wherein  
the end stop comprises an annular head formed at said  
other end of the sleeve projecting outwardly of the

sleeve.

5 6. A coupling as claimed in claim 5, wherein the head is formed with means to grip/seal with an encircling component in which the sleeve is engaged.

10 7. A coupling as claimed in claim 6, wherein the head has an encircling groove in which an O-ring or similar seal is mounted.

15 8. A coupling as claimed in claim 6, wherein the outer surface of the head has an annular recess in which a further flexible diaphragm is formed integral with the head and projecting proud of the outer surface of the head to engage and lock the head in the bore of a component in which the coupling is located.

20 9. A coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coupling has a second encircling annular recess with a flexible annular diaphragm formed in the recess to engage and grip in another component.

25 10. A coupling as claimed in claim 9, wherein the second recess is V-shaped and the flexible diaphragm is formed in the apex of the V.

30 11. A coupling as claimed in claim 9, wherein the second diaphragm projects marginally above the first diaphragm to provide a gripping function, the first diaphragm providing a sealing function with a component in which the coupling is engaged.

35 12. A coupling as claimed in claim 9 and in the case where the coupling has a head at one end, wherein the second annular recess is formed between the first recess and the head.